Death Sentence to an Indian in Jakarta for Smuggling

7108. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian and two Thai nationals have been sentenced to death in Jakarta on charges of smuggling heroin, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the charge against the Indian involved in smuggling; and

(c) whether this case reveals the operations of any well knit gang of smugglers of narcotics operating in or through India; If so, the efforts since made to nab and bring to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) as per the reports available an Indian and two Thai nationals were sentenced to death by Medan District Court, Indonesia on September 8, 1994 on charges of smuggling of Heroin. The accused were charged with smuggling of 12.19 Kg. of heroin into Indonesia in February, 1994.

(c) Details of the international linkages of the accused are not available.

Misgivings by Remarks of US Secretary of State about India

7109. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a seminar in New York on the 30th September, 1994 on South Asia and the US after Cold War, the US Assistant Secretary of State. Ms. Robin Raphel, clubbed together the democratic secular India with Pakistan and other fundamentalist and non-secular states; and

(b) if so, what was the Indian representative's response and reaction to the said remarks of Ms. Raphel and in what terms he set the matters straight, to dispel the misgivings caused by these remarks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Ms. Robin Raphel did not attend the Asia Society function at New York on September 30, 1994. However, in her keynot address at the Asia Society Symposium on 'Sourth Asia and the United States after the Cold War' at Washington on September 23, 1994 in the section on 'Democracy and Continuity' she stated that "All the nations in Sourth Asia can be vulnerable to extremism," without naming any particular country. She stated further that "Extremists in South Asia, as elsewhere, seek to play on the emotional and volatile issues of religion, nationalism and ethnic or caste differences..... The US must be prepared to join hands with willing nations to counter extremism, to create a community of like-minded, progressive states, a community that would draw together progresssive Islamic states and secular nations of the region in the common cause of democracy and tolerance...."

(b) The Indian representative was invited to speak at the Asia Society Symposium the next day (September 24, 1994). His speech dealt with various issues raised by the Asia Society Report, the Pakistani Foreign Minister's speech as the Lunch Speaker the previous day and other general questions.

Visas sought by Indians to visit Shrines in Pakistan

7110. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who applied for visa to visit religious Shrines in Pakistan during the last three years till date and the number of persons issued with visa, with year-wise break-up;

(b) the total number of Pakistanis who visited India for the same purpose during the aforesaid period;

(c) whether Government are aware of the policy of that country regarding grant of visas to the Indians to visit Shrines in that country as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 13th April, 1995; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government; thereon?